other persons in enjoyment of forest privileges. The extent of the operations, and the value of free labour availed of for this purpose, is shown below :—

Division.	No. of boundary marks put up and repaired.	Length of boundary paths cleared and repaired.	Estimated value.
	Miles.	Miles.	Rs. a. p.
Sukkur	7,157	948	1,395 0 0
Naushahro	2,878	20	404 0 0
Hyderabad	1,931	260	984 0 0
Jerruck	2,409	178	819 0 0
Total ...	14,375	1,406	3,602 0 0

38. The riverain forests having been flooded to a greater extent than in the previous year, the number of marks replaced or repaired, as well as the length of the boundary paths cleared, was in excess of the year 1895-96 by 2,554 and 922 miles, respectively.

IV.—Surveys.

Surveys.

39. The Forest Survey branch parties of the Government of India have not yet commenced operations in this Circle. The Riverain Survey has been completed, and the maps prepared have been found to be of great use.

CHAPTER II.

Management of State Forests.

I.—Regulation and Management.

(a) Working Plans and their Control.

Preparation of Working Plans.

40. During the year under report, it might be said the year in which a separate Division for preparing Working Plans came into existence, it was not possible for the officers in charge, Messrs. Napier and Dalal, to undertake more work than was done. After completing the demarcation referred to in paragraph 34, work was commenced in the Sukkur Division at the beginning of January 1897 with a view to the organisation of the Rohri, Dubar Wahan, Katha, Changni, and Hingora Forest Reserves in the Sadhuja Range, which, besides being in close proximity of the North-Western Railway line, come within the direct influence of the annual floods and at the same time, being safe from erosion, are not subject to fluctuations in area. The object of taking these areas first in hand is not simply because they play at present a very important part in the fuel supply of the North-Western Railway and the Quetta Commissariat, but chiefly to carry out the intention I have had all along in view to convert them gradually into babul (Acacia Arabica) and tali (Dalbergia Sissoo) forests by systematic cultural operations, as they are capable of being stocked with these valuable species in place of the existing growth of kandi (Prosopis Specigera) and lye (Tamarix Gallica). This work was finished by the middle of March, when, at the Commissioner's request, Mr. Napier's services were lent for Plague duty, and he was placed under the orders of the Sukkur Plague Committee. Mr. Dalal, Divisional Forest Officer, Hyderabad, then took charge of the Working Plans office in addition to his own, and before the close of the tour season made a survey in advance of the Miani, Muhammad Khan, Kathri, and Matiari babul reserves in order that correct maps may be ready to enable the organisation of these very valuable State properties being taken in hand at the commencement of the following working season.